



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Raised Bill No. 5651

LCO No. 1795

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING STATUTORY OATHS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 1-24 of the general statutes, as amended by public
2 act 01-7 and section 1 of public act 01-84, is repealed and the following
3 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

4 The following officers may administer oaths: (1) The clerks of the
5 Senate, the clerks of the House of Representatives and the chairpersons
6 of committees of the General Assembly or of either branch thereof,
7 during its session; (2) state officers, as defined in subsection (t) of
8 section 9-1, judges and clerks of any court, family support magistrates,
9 judge trial referees, justices of the peace, commissioners of the Superior
10 Court, notaries public, commissioners appointed by the Governor to
11 take acknowledgment of deeds, town clerks and assistant town clerks,
12 in all cases where an oath may be administered, except in a case where
13 the law otherwise requires; (3) commissioners on insolvent estates,
14 auditors, arbitrators and committees, to parties and witnesses, in all
15 cases tried before them; (4) assessors and boards of assessment
16 appeals, in cases coming before them; (5) commissioners appointed by
17 governors of other states to take the acknowledgment of deeds, in the

18 discharge of their official duty; (6) the moderator of a school district
19 meeting, in such meeting, to the clerk of such district, as required by
20 law; (7) the first selectman, in any matter before the board of
21 selectmen; (8) the Chief Medical Examiner, Deputy Medical Examiner
22 and assistant medical examiners of the Office of the Medical Examiner,
23 in any matter before them; (9) registrars of vital statistics, in any matter
24 before them; (10) any chief inspector or inspector appointed pursuant
25 to section 51-286; (11) registrars of voters, deputy registrars, assistant
26 registrars, and moderators, in any matter before them; (12) special
27 assistant registrars, in matters provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of
28 section 9-19b and section 9-19c; (13) the Commissioner of Public Safety
29 and any sworn member of any local police department or the Division
30 of State Police within the Department of Public Safety, in all affidavits,
31 statements, depositions, complaints or reports made to or by any
32 member of any local police department or said Division of State Police
33 or any constable who is under the supervision of said commissioner or
34 any of such officers of said Division of State Police and who is certified
35 under the provisions of sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive, as
36 amended, and performs criminal law enforcement duties; (14) judge
37 advocates of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine
38 Corps, law specialists of the United States Coast Guard, adjutants,
39 assistant adjutants, acting adjutants and personnel adjutants,
40 commanding officers, executive officers and officers whose rank is
41 lieutenant commander or major, or above, of the armed forces as
42 defined in section 27-103 to persons serving with or in the armed
43 forces as defined in said section or their spouses; (15) investigators,
44 deputy investigators, investigative aides, secretaries, clerical assistants,
45 social workers, social worker trainees, paralegals and certified legal
46 interns employed by or assigned to the Public Defender Services
47 Commission in the performance of their assigned duties; (16) bail
48 commissioners, assistant bail commissioners and secretaries and
49 clerical assistants employed in the office of the Bail Commission in the
50 performance of their assigned duties; (17) juvenile matter investigators
51 employed by the Division of Criminal Justice in the performance of

52 their assigned duties; (18) the chairperson of the Connecticut Siting
53 Council or the chairperson's designee; (19) the presiding officer at an
54 agency hearing under section 4-177b; (20) family relations counselors
55 of the Family Division of the Superior Court, support enforcement
56 officers and investigators employed by the Department of Social
57 Services Bureau of Child Support Enforcement and the Judicial
58 Department in the performance of their assigned duties; (21) the
59 chairperson, vice-chairperson and members of the Board of Parole,
60 parole officers and parole supervisors in the performance of their
61 assigned duties; and (22) the Commissioner of Correction or the
62 commissioner's designee.

63 Sec. 2. Section 1-25 of the general statutes is repealed and the
64 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

65 The forms of oaths shall be as follows, to wit:

66 FOR MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, EXECUTIVE
67 AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS.

68 You do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will
69 support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of
70 the state of Connecticut, so long as you continue a citizen thereof; and
71 that you will faithfully discharge, according to law, the duties of the
72 office of to the best of your abilities; so help you God.

73 FOR NOTARIES PUBLIC.

74 You do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will
75 support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of
76 the state of Connecticut; and that you will faithfully discharge,
77 according to law, the duties of the office of notary public to the best of
78 your abilities; so help you God.

79 FOR ELECTORS.

80 You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will be
81 true and faithful to the constitutions and governments of the State of
82 Connecticut and the United States of America; that the statements
83 made in your application for admission as an elector are true and
84 complete; and that your privileges as an elector are not forfeited by
85 reason of conviction of a felony; so help you God.

86 FOR ATTORNEYS.

87 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will do
88 no falsehood, nor consent to any to be done in court, and, if you know
89 of any to be done, you will give information thereof to the judges, or
90 one of them, that it may be reformed; you will not wittingly or
91 willingly promote, sue or cause to be sued, any false or unlawful suit,
92 or give aid, or consent, to the same; you will delay no person for lucre
93 or malice; but will exercise the office of attorney, within the court
94 wherein you may practice, according to the best of your learning and
95 discretion, and with fidelity, as well to the court as to your client; so
96 help you God.]

97 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
98 may be, that you will do nothing dishonest, and will not knowingly
99 allow anything dishonest to be done in court, and that you will inform
100 the court of any dishonesty of which you have knowledge; that you
101 will not knowingly maintain or assist in maintaining any cause of
102 action that is false or unlawful; that you will not obstruct any cause of
103 action for personal gain or malice; but that you will exercise the office
104 of attorney, in any court in which you may practice, according to the
105 best of your learning and judgment, faithfully, to both your client and
106 the court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

107 [FOR GRAND JURORS IMPANELED IN COURT.

108 You solemnly swear by the name of the ever-living God, (or affirm,
109 as the case may be) that you will diligently inquire after, and due
110 presentment make, of all breaches of law that shall come to your

111 knowledge, according to your charge; the secrets of the cause, your
112 own, and your fellows', you will duly observe and keep; you will
113 present no person from envy, hatred or malice; neither will you leave
114 any person unpresented, from love, fear or affection, or in hope of
115 reward; but you will present cases truly, as they come to your
116 knowledge, according to the best of your understanding and according
117 to law; so help you God.]

118 FOR PETIT JURORS IN CRIMINAL CAUSES.

119 [You solemnly swear by the name of the ever-living God, (or affirm,
120 as the case may be) that you will, without respect of persons or favor
121 of any person, well and truly try, and true deliverance make, between
122 the state of Connecticut and the defendant, whom you shall have in
123 charge, according to law and the evidence before you; your own
124 counsel, and your fellows', you will duly observe and keep; you will
125 speak nothing, to any one, of the business or matters you have in hand,
126 but among yourselves, nor will you suffer any one to speak to you
127 about the same, but in court; so help you God.]

128 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
129 may be, that you will, without respect of any persons or favor of any
130 person, decide this case between the state of Connecticut and the
131 defendant (or defendants) based on the evidence given in court and on
132 the laws of this state, as explained by the judge; that you will not talk
133 to each other about this case until instructed to do so; that you will
134 listen to and consider what the other jurors have to say in deliberations
135 about this case; that you will not speak to anyone else, or allow anyone
136 else to speak to you, about this case until you have been discharged by
137 the court; and that when you reach a decision, you will not disclose the
138 decision until it is announced in court; so help you God or upon
139 penalty of perjury.

140 FOR ALTERNATE JURORS IN CRIMINAL CAUSES.

141 [You solemnly swear by the name of the ever-living God, (or affirm,

142 as the case may be) that, if called upon to become a member of the jury
143 to determine this cause, you will, without respect of persons or favor
144 of any person, well and truly try, and true deliverance make, between
145 the state of Connecticut and the defendant, whom you shall have in
146 charge, according to law and the evidence before you; your own
147 counsel, and your fellows', you will duly observe and keep; you will
148 speak nothing, to any one, of the business or matters you have in hand,
149 but among yourselves, nor will you suffer any one to speak to you
150 about the same, but in court; so help you God.]

151 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
152 may be, that, if you become a member of the jury for this case, you
153 will, without respect of any persons or favor of any person, decide this
154 case between the state of Connecticut and the defendant (or
155 defendants) based on the evidence given in court and on the laws of
156 this state, as explained by the judge; that you will not talk to each other
157 about this case until instructed to do so; that you will listen to and
158 consider what the other jurors have to say in deliberations about this
159 case; that you will not speak to anyone else, or allow anyone else to
160 speak to you about this case until you have been discharged by the
161 court; and that when you reach a decision, you will not disclose the
162 decision until it is announced in court; so help you God or upon
163 penalty of perjury.

164 FOR JURORS IN CIVIL CAUSES.

165 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will
166 well and truly try the issue or issues, now to be given you in charge,
167 between the plaintiff and the defendant (or plaintiffs and defendants),
168 according to the evidence given you in court, and the laws of this state,
169 and accordingly a true verdict give; your own counsel, and your
170 fellows', you will duly observe and keep; you will speak nothing, to
171 any one, of the business or matters you have in hand, but among
172 yourselves, nor will you suffer any one to speak to you about the same,
173 but in court; and, when you are agreed upon any verdict, you will

174 keep it secret until you deliver it up in court; so help you God.]

175 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
176 may be, that you will decide this case between the plaintiff and the
177 defendant (or plaintiffs and defendants) based on the evidence given
178 in court and on the laws of this state as explained by the judge; that
179 you will not talk to each other about this case until instructed to do so;
180 that you will listen to and consider what the other jurors have to say in
181 deliberations about this case; that you will not speak to anyone else, or
182 allow anyone else to speak to you, about this case until you have been
183 discharged by the court; and that when you reach a decision, you will
184 not disclose the decision until it is announced in court; so help you
185 God or upon penalty of perjury.

186 FOR ALTERNATE JURORS IN CIVIL CAUSES.

187 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that, if called
188 upon to become a member of the jury to determine this cause, you will
189 well and truly try the issue or issues, now to be given you in charge,
190 between the plaintiff and the defendant (or plaintiffs and defendants),
191 according to the evidence given you in court, and the laws of this state,
192 and accordingly a true verdict give; your own counsel, and your
193 fellows', you will duly observe and keep; you will speak nothing, to
194 any one, of the business or matters you have in hand, but among
195 yourselves, nor will you suffer any one to speak to you about the same,
196 but in court; and, when you are agreed upon any verdict, you will
197 keep it secret until you deliver it up in court; so help you God.]

198 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
199 may be, that, if you become a member of the jury for this case, you will
200 decide this case between the plaintiff and the defendant (or plaintiffs
201 and defendants) based on the evidence given in court and on the laws
202 of this state as explained by the judge; that you will not talk to each
203 other about this case until instructed to do so; that you will listen to
204 and consider what the other jurors have to say in deliberations about
205 this case; that you will not speak to anyone else, or allow anyone else

206 to speak to you, about this case until you have been discharged by the
207 court; and that when you reach a decision, you will not disclose the
208 decision until it is announced in court; so help you God or upon
209 penalty of perjury.

210 VOIR DIRE.

211 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will
212 well and truly answer such interrogatories as shall be put to you,
213 under the direction of the court, not immediately relating to the merits
214 of the cause now in question; so help you God.]

215 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
216 may be, that you will answer truthfully all questions that you are
217 asked, none of which will be about the merits of the case for which the
218 jury is being selected; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

219 FOR WITNESSES.

220 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that the
221 evidence you shall give, concerning the case now in question, shall be
222 the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; so help you God.]

223 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
224 may be, that the evidence you shall give concerning this case shall be
225 the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; so help you God
226 or upon penalty of perjury.

227 FOR INVESTIGATORY GRAND JURY WITNESSES.

228 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
229 may be, that the evidence you shall give concerning this investigation
230 into the commission of a crime or crimes, shall be the truth, the whole
231 truth and nothing but the truth; so help you God or upon penalty of
232 perjury.

233 FOR WITNESSES TWELVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER.

234 You promise that you will tell the truth.

235 FOR AN INTERPRETER IN A CRIMINAL CASE.

236 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will
237 make a true interpretation of the information (or indictment) upon
238 which the accused stands charged, in the language which the accused
239 understands and can speak, and of all questions which may be
240 propounded to the accused under the direction of the court; and that
241 you will make a like true interpretation of the plea to said information
242 (or indictment) and of the answers to such questions to this court (or to
243 this court and jury), in the English language, according to your best
244 skill and judgment; so help you God.]

245 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
246 may be, that you will interpret accurately the information (or
247 indictment) that charges the accused with a crime and all questions
248 that the accused may be asked under the direction of the court in a
249 language the accused can understand and speak; that you will
250 interpret accurately the pleas of the accused to the information (or
251 indictment) and the answers of the accused to the court (or to the court
252 and jury) in English; and that you will make all interpretations to the
253 best of your skill and judgment; so help you God or upon penalty of
254 perjury.

255 FOR AN INTERPRETER IN COURT.

256 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will
257 make a true interpretation of the oath to be administered to the
258 witness, in the language which the witness understands and can speak,
259 and of all questions which may be propounded to the witness under
260 the direction of the court; and that you will make a like true
261 interpretation of the answers to such questions to this court (or to this
262 court and jury), in the English language, according to your best skill
263 and judgment; so help you God.]

264 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
265 may be, that you will interpret accurately the oath to be administered
266 to the witness and all questions that the witness may be asked under
267 direction of the court in a language the witness can understand and
268 speak; that you will interpret accurately the answers of the witness to
269 the court (or to the court and jury) in English; and that you will make
270 all interpretations to the best of your skill and judgment; so help you
271 God or upon penalty of perjury.

272 FOR AN INTERPRETER FOR A DEAF
273 OR HEARING IMPAIRED JUROR.

274 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will
275 make a true interpretation to a deaf or hearing impaired juror of the
276 juror orientation program, of any oath to be administered to the juror,
277 of all testimony and other relevant colloquy, and of all questions which
278 may be propounded to the juror under the direction of the court; and
279 that you will make a like true interpretation of the juror's answers to
280 this court, in the English language, according to your best skill and
281 judgment; and that you will refrain from participating in any manner
282 in the deliberations of the jury other than making a true interpretation
283 of jurors' remarks made during deliberation, according to your best
284 skill and judgment; and that you will refrain from having
285 communications with anyone outside the jury concerning the business
286 or matters in the jurors' hands; so help you God.]

287 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
288 may be, that you will interpret accurately to a deaf or hearing impaired
289 juror the juror orientation program, any oath to be administered to the
290 juror, all testimony and other relevant conversation, and all questions
291 that the juror may be asked under the direction of the court; that you
292 will interpret accurately the answers of the juror to the court in
293 English; that you will not participate in any manner in the
294 deliberations of the jury other than making an accurate interpretation
295 of the remarks of the jurors during deliberations; that you will make all

296 interpretations to the best of your skill and judgment; and that you will
297 not communicate with anyone outside the jury concerning the business
298 or matters before the jury; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

299 FOR ASSESSORS, TO SUBSCRIBE UPON ABSTRACT.

300 I, ..., assessor of the town of ..., do solemnly swear [(or affirm, as
301 the case may be)] or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be,
302 that I [verily] believe that all the lists, and the abstract of said town for
303 the year [19] 20.., are made up and perfected according to law; so help
304 me God or upon penalty of perjury.

305 FOR PLAINTIFF, WHEN INDIFFERENT PERSON IS [DEPUTED]
306 AUTHORIZED TO SERVE WRIT.

307 [You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you verily
308 believe the plaintiff is (or plaintiffs are) in danger of losing the debt
309 (damage or other thing) in this writ, unless an indifferent person shall
310 be deputed for the immediate service of the same; so help you God.]

311 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case
312 may be, that you believe the plaintiff is (or plaintiffs are) in danger of
313 losing the debt (damage or other thing) in this writ, unless an
314 indifferent person is authorized to immediately serve this writ; so help
315 you God or upon penalty of perjury.

316 FOR MEMBERS OF A COURT-MARTIAL.

317 You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will
318 truly try and determine, according to the evidence given in court, the
319 matters depending between this state and the officer (or officers) now
320 to be tried; that you will not divulge the sentence of the court until the
321 same shall have been approved or disapproved, according to law;
322 neither will you, at any time, disclose the vote or opinion of any
323 member of the court, unless required by due course of law; so help you
324 God.

325 FOR THE JUDGE-ADVOCATE OF A COURT-MARTIAL.

326 You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will
 327 not, at any time whatever, disclose the vote or opinion of any member
 328 of any court-martial in which you may be called to act, unless required
 329 by due course of law, nor divulge the sentence of any such court,
 330 unless the same shall have been approved or disapproved, according
 331 to law; and that you will faithfully and impartially do the duty of
 332 judge-advocate, according to your best ability; so help you God.

333 FOR OFFICIALS APPOINTED TO SERVE IN ANY POLLING
 334 PLACE

335 IN ANY ELECTION OR PRIMARY.

336 You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will
 337 faithfully discharge, according to law, your duties as, to the best of
 338 your ability; and that you will serve in this election or primary as the
 339 case may be, as an official, completely impartial with respect to any
 340 candidate or any political party; so help you God.

341 FOR ALL OTHER PERSONS OF WHOM AN OATH IS REQUIRED.

342 You solemnly swear [(or affirm, as the case may be)] or solemnly
 343 and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will faithfully
 344 discharge, according to law, your duties as to the best of your
 345 [ability] abilities; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2002</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To eliminate and update antiquated language in statutory oaths pertaining to the Judicial Branch, and to specifically permit judge trial referees to administer oaths.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]